

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT REGION 8

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

Last Week –

SPILL PREVENTION CONTROL COUNTERMEASURE (SPCC) INSPECTIONS: During the weeks of September 15 and October 6 staff from Region 8's Oil Program will be conducting production

Enforcement/Investigatory / Ex. 7(a)

Contact: Melissa Payan, 312-6511

Next Week –

Facility Response Plan (FRP) Inspections and Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises

Enforcement/Investigatory / Ex. 7(a)

only, no requirement for immediate action by the Regional Administrator.

Contact: Melissa Payan, 312-6511

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Previous Weeks –

WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT TRAINING IN HELENA, MT: On September 11, 2014, Al Garcia of the OPRA Wastewater Program and Stephanie DeJong of the ECEJ NPDES Enforcement Unit, presented a day long Pretreatment Regulatory training in Helena, MT. The training was co-sponsored by the Montana Environmental Training Center and the City of Helena. Region 8 has direct implementation responsibility for Pretreatment in the State of Montana. Al and Stephanie provided training on wastewater pretreatment program development, pretreatment regulations, inspection practices, and enforcement. Approximately 20-25 attendees, including local pretreatment program staff and wastewater operators, participated in the training. This training is part of an ongoing effort to provide technical assistance and training to wastewater/pretreatment program operators, with the goal of improved compliance and relations with the regulated community. *For informational purposes only, no action required by the RA/DRA/ARA.*

Contacts: Al Garcia, 312-6382; Stephanie DeJong, 312-6362.

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Last Week –

EPA PUBLISHED FINAL DECISION TO DE-LIST THE EFFLUENT LIMITATION GUIDELINE (ELG) RULEMAKING FOR COALBED METHANE (CBM): The Environmental Protection Agency published in the Federal Register the Final 2012 ELG Program Plan, along with the Preliminary 2014 ELG Plan. In the Final 2012 Plan, the EPA announced its final decision to de-list a rulemaking for the CBM extraction industry after proposing to de-list the industry and soliciting public comment in the Preliminary 2012 Plan which was published in August 2013. Previously, several Region 8 stakeholders submitted comments supporting the development of a CBM ELG. These stakeholders include: Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Northern Plains Resource Council, Powder River Basin Resources, Western Organization of Resource Councils and Wyoming Outdoor Council. However, due to the recent decline in an economic viability of the CBM industry, the proposal to de-list CBM was well received by the public and the public comments submitted to EPA were supportive of de-listing CBM. *Information only; no action required by the RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Colleen Rathbone, 312-6133; Amy Clark, 312-7014

COLORADO FLOOD RECOVERY STATE AND FEDERAL PLANNING MEETING: On September 15, 2014, the EPA and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs convened a meeting of state and federal agencies that have been, or will need to be involved in long term flood recovery planning efforts. The goal of the meeting was to form a network of agencies that can collectively look at all the planning efforts underway in the recovery area and identify gaps where the agencies could support and leverage one another's individual efforts. The Partnership for Sustainable Communities (HUD, DOT and EPA) is supporting long-term recovery, as well as the EPA Sustainable Communities Program and the Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Program. *Information only, no action required by the RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Cindy Cody, 312-6228; Barbara Dehnert, 312-6617

EPA REGION 8 LEAD, PESTICIDES, AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH UNIT MET WITH SCHOOL ADVOCATE FROM U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JARED POLIS'S OFFICE: On September 19, 2014, Unit Chief, Jennifer Schuller, and School Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Clyde Wilson, met with Jamie Grim, district representative from U.S. Representative Polis' office to discuss EPA school environment programs. The congressman had two representatives in attendance at the Green Strides tour of Colorado Green Ribbon Schools on September 17, which Mr. Wilson participated in that week, and that sparked interest in the EPA's role with schools. An overview of EPA programs in the K-12 Public School environment and relevant publications were provided to Ms. Grim. *Information only, no action required by the RA/DRA.*
Contacts: Clyde Wilson, 312-6217; Jennifer Schuller, 312-6334

This Week –

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA SELECTED FOR EPA'S GREENING AMERICA'S CAPITALS PROGRAM: The Office of Sustainable Communities has selected Pierre for the Greening America's Capitals technical assistance program for 2014. Pierre is among five selected capitals to receive contractor support via this program. The historic South Pierre Street, which connects the county courthouse and state capitol grounds to the Missouri River, will be made more resilient to extreme climate conditions through redesign and incorporation of green infrastructure features. EPA headquarters sent out a national press release on September 23, 2014, announcing the selection. Region 8 and the city drafted a local press release and announcement that the mayor will deliver at the city commission meeting on September 23. Neither the EPA nor the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership has prior work in Pierre on Sustainable Community or Green Infrastructure projects. Cindy Cody and Stacey Eriksen will participate in the kick-off call on October 15, 2014, to assess future EPA support. *Information only; no action required by the RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Cindy Cody, 312-6228; Lisa McClain-Vanderpool, 312-6077; Stacey Eriksen, 312-6692

COLORADO SMELTER REVITALIZATION, PUEBLO: On September 24, 2014, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which includes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Transportation and the EPA, will meet at HUD to discuss a broader revitalization effort in Pueblo. This initial meeting is made opportune by the newly designated Colorado Smelter Superfund Site. Because all three agencies have programmatic work and funds in and around this site area, this provides an opportunity for the agencies to leverage resources and expertise. EPA programs include Sustainable Communities, Superfund, Superfund Revitalization, Superfund Community Involvement, Environmental Justice, Brownfields, and Green Infrastructure. Rick Garcia, HUD Regional Administrator and Sandy Stavnes, EPA Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator, will be in attendance at the September 24 meeting. *Information only, no action required by the RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Cindy Cody, 312-6228; Sabrina Forrest, 312-6484; Fran Costanzi, 312-6571; Chris Wardell, 312-6062; Michael Wenstrom, 312-7009

REGION 8 STAFF CONDUCT DRINKING WATER WORKSHOPS AT WYOMING RURAL WATER CONFERENCE IN CODY, WYOMING: On September 24-25, 2014, staff members from OPRA's Drinking Water Unit will convene three different four-hour workshops at the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Associations' fall conference. One workshop will provide hands-on drinking water operation and compliance information targeted to owners and operators of seasonal and tourist destinations in Wyoming. About 35 participants are expected. Another workshop for about 100 participants will discuss drinking water requirements and regulatory changes that are applicable to professional water operators and community water systems. The third workshop for about 150 participants will consist of a group tabletop exercise to simulate how water utilities respond to a water

service interruption caused by extreme weather events, and will provide information on EPA tools that can help communities plan ahead for such events. *Information only, no action required by the RA/DRA.*
Contact: Lisa Kahn, 312-6896

Next Week –

RCRP GUEST LECTURE ON SOIL AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION, METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY: On October 1, 2014, Chris Cosentini of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Program will present a guest lecture concerning remedial technologies used in Region 8 and recent policy/guidance that impacts the choice of remedial technologies to the Environmental Science Department's Environmental Remediation (ENV 3710) class. Extensive references will be provided to students to aid them as they each develop a research paper on a specific site and technology. *Information only; no action required by the RA/DRA.*
Contacts: Nancy Morlock, 312-6421; Chris Cosentini, 312-6231

MONTANA OPERATIONS OFFICE

***No items to report.**